

GARSTANG
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL




ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND OF THE
Sanitary Inspector
FOR THE YEAR
1949



R. SEED & SONS,
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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health FOR THE YEAR 1949.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Garstang Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you for your consideration my Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health, for the year ending 31st December, 1949.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Position ... Latitude 53° 54" North. Longitude 2° 47" West

Elevation above sea level ... 0 feet to 1,675 feet

Geological formation ... Eastern Highlands—Millstone grit
Western Lowlands—Glacial clay on
triassic sandstone with patches of
alluvium.

Chief Industries carried
on in the Area ... Mainly Agricultural and Poultry
Farming; Market Gardening; Milk
Processing and Cheese Making; Tex-
tile Manufacturing and Paper Making.
A number of men are employed in the
building trades, and also a number of
residents, owing to the good bus service,
are employed in the neighbouring towns

Area (Acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	57,189
Population (Census 1931)			...	...	...	...	11,562
Estimated Population, 1949			...	...	...	...	12,600
Persons per Acre	...	...	...	...	...	...	·22
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1931)				...	...		2,773
Number of Inhabited Houses end of 1949 according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,597
Number of Families, or Separate Occupiers (Census 1931)							2,796
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£75,772
Sum represented by a penny rate				...	...	...	£306

VITAL STATISTICS.

			<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	
Live Births	} Legitimate	...	176	86	90	
		... } Illegitimate	5	3	2	
Total			181	89	92	
Still births...	...	...	10	2	8	
Deaths	...	...	146	67	79	
			<i>1949</i>	<i>1948</i>	<i>Mean 1944-8</i>	<i>England & Wales 1949</i>
Birth rate (per 1,000 of population	...	...	14.4	15.4	16.6	16.7
Death rate	...	...	11.6	12.3	12.6	11.7
Still birth rate	...	...	52	29	—	—
Death rate from T.B. of respiratory system	...	...	0.08	0.15	0.19	0.45
Death rate from Cancer	...	...	1.83	2.44	1.94	—
Maternal mortality rate, per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	10.47	—	1.99	0.98
Infantile mortality rate, per 1,000 live births	...	...	39	30	41	32

BIRTHS.

There were 181 live births, 89 being males and 92 females. 176 of these births were legitimate and 5 were illegitimate. The birth rate per 1,000 of the population was 14.4.

STILL BIRTHS.

The number of still births in 1949 was 10 giving a still birth rate of 52 per 1,000 total births. The rate per 1,000 total population is 0.79 as compared with a rate of 0.39 for England and Wales.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths was 146 comprising 67 males and 79 females and giving a death rate of 11.6 per 1,000 of the population.

The death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births is 39 ; the death rate of legitimate infants is 34 and of illegitimate infants is 200.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	—	1	1
Influenza	...	...	...	2	2	4
Cancer	...	...	...	8	15	23
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	6	8	14
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	28	30	58
Other Diseases of Circ. System	...	...	...	1	0	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	2	5	7
Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	2	4
Appendicitis	...	...	...	1	0	1
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	1	0	1
Nephritis	...	...	...	4	2	6
Maternal Causes	...	...	...	0	2	2
Premature Births	...	...	...	1	1	2
Congenital Debility, Malformations, etc.	...	...	...	2	3	5
Suicide	...	...	...	1	1	2
Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	2	1	3
Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	2	1	3
All Other Causes	...	...	...	4	5	9

TUBERCULOSIS.—New Cases during 1949.

Age Periods				New Cases			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
Years							
1—5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—15	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15—20	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
20—25	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
25—35	...	...	3	...	2	...	...
35—45	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
45—55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...			5	4	1	2
				9		3	

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1949.

TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED AND AGES.

DISEASE	Total No. of Cases	Under 1	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 and over	Cases removed to Hospital
Scarlet Fever ...	3	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	14	...	...	1	5	...	...	1	3	4	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Measles ...	251	4	31	61	131	22	...	2	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	17	2	5	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS ...	286	6	38	67	143	22	...	3	3	4	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER—Three cases notified during 1949, against 29 in 1948.

DIPHTHERIA—It is a great pleasure to again place on record the fact that no cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

PNEUMONIA—Shows a decrease of five on the previous year.

POLIOMYELITIS—One case of Acute Poliomyelitis, a boy aged 2 years, was notified against none for the previous year.

MEASLES—An increase of 215 cases, mostly children of school age, was recorded.

WHOOPING COUGH—17 cases were notified during the year as against 90 in 1948.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Andrew B. Taylor, M.B., Ch.B., part-time Medical Officer of Health.

Jas. Parkinson, M.S.I.A., Cert.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector.

J. B. Cook, Assistant to the Sanitary Inspector, whole-time officer.

The National Health Service Act, 1946, which came into operation on the 5th July, 1948, has considerably altered the provision of Health Services in County Districts.

Four Parishes of the Garstang Rural District are in Lancashire County Council Health Division No. 3 and the remaining parishes are in Health Division No. 4.

The Parishes in Health Division No. 3 are :—

Hambleton	Out-Rawcliffe	Pilling
	Stalmine	

The Parishes in Health Division No. 4 are :—

Garstang	Kirkland	Nether Wyresdale
Upper Rawcliffe	Catterall	Bleasdale
Great Eccleston	Myerscough	Barnacre-with-
Inskip-with-Sowerby	Forton	Bonds
Winmarleigh	Cabus	Claughton
Nateby		Bilsborrow

School clinics, Tuberculosis dispensary, and Venereal disease treatment centres are provided by the Ministry of Health.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Swabs, specimens of sputum, etc., and samples of milk, ice-cream, water, and other foods for bacteriological and biological examination are taken to the pathological departments of Blackpool Victoria Hospital and Preston Royal Infirmary.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Lancashire County Council scheme provides for a twenty-four hour per diem free service and will undertake the conveyance of all persons suffering from any type of sickness, disease or disability who, in the main, need vehicles of a special type and trained personnel to care for them during the journey to hospitals, or clinics or to their homes in any part of the country.

The present arrangement is that an ambulance Station for Hambleton, Stalmine and Out-Rawcliffe is to be situate at Thornton-Cleveleys.

The ambulance station for the remaining parishes of the Rural District is at present stationed at Garstang but it is possible that this may be removed.

According to the County Medical Officer of Health's Report on the operation of the local Ambulance Service the estimated number of patients conveyed to hospitals during the period was 1,451, against 100 for the previous year.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

The domiciliary nursing and midwifery services are the province of the County Council and appear to be satisfactory.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION AND TREATMENT.

Hospital accommodation is provided by the Ministry of Health. No delay has been experienced in the admission of urgent cases to hospital, but there still exists a long waiting period for non-emergency cases—this appears to be common in other areas.

I would like to express my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector and Clerk of the Council for their co-operation and assistance during the past year.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

ANDREW B. TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector FOR THE YEAR 1949.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
GARSTANG

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Garstang Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Sanitary Circumstances of your District for the year 1949.

WATER SUPPLY.

The bulk of the water is supplied to the district by the Fylde Water Board, and is upland surface water of excellent quality. No complaints as to the quality of this water were received during the year.

During the year, a new supply of water was provided for the village of Calder Vale from the Fylde Water Board in place of the Manchester Corporation Thirlmere supply.

There are a number of agricultural premises, including farm-houses, which have had Fylde water installed during the past year under the grant-aided scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and some agricultural premises have had piped supplies installed from private sources.

The water supply to the dwelling houses in the Rural District, as near as can be ascertained, is as follows :

From Mains :	Houses	Est'd Population
Direct to houses	3373	11823
By means of standpipe	—	—
From Private Supplies	224	777

In general the major part of the district is adequately supplied from public mains, and the Council have under consideration proposals to afford additional piped supplies, and every endeavour is made to persuade owners to install a public supply where this is at all practicable.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The Council undertake the removal of domestic refuse in all twenty parishes.

The arrangements for collection consist of one Dennis twelve cubic yard and one Bedford 7 cubic yard refuse collection vehicle manned by six loaders, inclusive of drivers, and disposal is effected by a system of controlled tipping on six tips within the rural district.

The normal interval between collection is fifteen days with a more frequent collection in the case of certain premises having pail closets.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION (at end of 1949)

Number of middens	...	...	...	...	150
Number of closets attached thereto	...	...	...	...	160
Number of pail closets	...	...	...	...	711
Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens)	...	...	...	...	—
Number of moveable dustbins	...	...	...	...	3035
Number of trough closets	...	...	...	...	6
Number of waste water closets	...	...	...	...	—
Number of fresh water closets	...	...	...	...	2731

Salvage is collected throughout the whole district by the Council's staff. The amounts for the past and preceding years are as follows :—

			<i>Paper</i>			<i>Rags, etc.</i>		
			<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>
1944	...	...	36	10	0	3	7	1
1945	...	...	24	7	0	2	7	0
1946	...	...	30	8	1	4	4	0
1947	...	...	35	5	0	2	8	3
1948	...	...	35	6	2	3	0	3
1949	...	...	31	16	2	2	11	0

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Amongst the more important conditions which are adversely affecting the Public Health is the acute shortage of housing accommodation.

To meet this need, ten houses were built by private enterprise and 62 houses were built by the Council, during the year. The houses completed by the Council during the year were situated as follows :—

Garstang	...	...	32	Inskip...	...	...	4
Great Eccleston	...	...	14	Pilling	...	...	8
Saint Michael's	...	...	4				

All applicants for council houses who live within the area of the local authority are visited at their place of residence by the Sanitary Inspector, and in addition, all applicants are given the opportunity of an interview. Every person who makes a visit

to the office in connection with his application for a house is always interviewed. During the year there have been 498 visits and 186 interviews. This work takes up a considerable amount of time.

It is still difficult to effect general repairs to property. Most defects are dealt with informally by a visit to the responsible person and an oral notice.

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during the year :—

Ash-pits	...	...	...	...	7
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	18
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	15
Cafes	...	...	...	...	8
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	201
Dairies	...	...	...	...	105
Dirty Houses	...	...	...	...	13
Drains	...	...	...	...	76
Dust Bins	...	...	...	...	41
Factories and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	58
Farms	...	...	...	...	95
Food preparation premises	...	...	...	...	73
Houses	...	...	...	...	565
Houses (Council)	...	...	...	...	45
Housing applicants	...	...	...	...	498
Ice-cream premises	...	...	...	...	160
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	44
Market Stalls	...	...	...	...	38
Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	162
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	57
Petroleum Regulations	...	...	...	...	50
Public Cleansing	...	...	...	...	146
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	17
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	57
Schools	...	...	...	...	24
Shops	...	...	...	...	33
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	15
Salvage	...	...	...	...	88
Closets : privy	...	...	...	...	30
pail	...	...	...	...	35
fresh water	...	...	...	...	21
Water supplies	...	...	...	...	21
Conversions	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous inspections and visits	...	...	...	...	281
Disinfections—Houses	...	...	...	...	12

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Food preparing premises of all types were inspected during the year and have generally been found to be satisfactory. No written notices have been issued, any necessary works having been done after oral notice.

The following amounts of foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and certificates were issued in each case :—

			lbs.	ozs.
Bacon	...	...	49	0
Cheese	...	...	36	0
Pickles	...	...	8	0
Peaches	...	...	12	0
Gelatine	...	...	0	7
Milk	...	...	6	tins
Scotch Broth	...	...	1	tin

No outbreaks of food poisoning were reported during the year.

All meat consumed in the Rural District is obtained from Preston, Blackpool and Lancaster ; there are no slaughterhouses in the district since private slaughterhouses were closed in 1940. A large number of pigs are slaughtered under Ministry of Food licence for consumption by their owners, but no liability exists for the owners to notify time and place of slaughter and these carcasses are not generally inspected.

There is one licensed knackers' yard in the district, situated in the parish of Catterall. The premises are regularly inspected and have been found satisfactory.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Number of Slaughtermen on Register	...	31
Number of New Licences issued	...	10
Number of Renewals	...	8

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS.

All reported cases of animals being affected with *Cysticercus Bovis* were investigated and enquiries made as to whether the cattle were Irish or home bred ; water supply and disposal of excreta at the farm ; history of ex-servicemen and displaced persons working on the farm, and the history of any tapeworms amongst the farm workers.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

On the 1st October, 1949, new legislation was introduced whereby the responsibility of milk production was transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

At the time of the change-over, there were approximately 600 farms on the register, all of which were inspected from time to time. Many of the farmers were anxious to bring their buildings up to the " T.T.," and " Accredited " standards and 24

licences (20 "Tuberculin Tested" and 4 "Accredited") had been granted by the Lancashire County Council during the period 1st January to the 30th September, 1949.

Systematic sampling for the purpose of bacteriological and biological examination of milk retailed in the area is carried out, and milk supplied to schools is examined quarterly for the presence of tubercle bacilli.

Thirty-five samples of milk taken during the year for biological examination were all reported to be free from B. tuberculosis.

As from the above-mentioned date, the Food and Drugs Authority, namely the County Council, became responsible for the licensing of Pasteurising establishments, of which there are two in the area, each having their own technical staff for the purpose of examining milk samples, etc.

ICE CREAM.

During the year, 70 samples of Ice Cream were taken from 19 vendors in the district. Each vendor was notified of his grading, and in the case of those vendors whose samples fell below grade 2, a special visit was made and equipment inspected and instruction given as to hygienic methods of control. A further sample was later taken and this procedure was repeated until samples from that vendor were satisfactory.

Analysis of the 70 samples shew the following :—

Grade 1	30	samples or	43·4%	of the total samples
2	14	„ „	21·0%	„ „ „
3	9	„ „	13·2%	„ „ „
4	15	„ „	22·4%	„ „ „

No results were returned in respect of two samples owing to a technical difficulty at the laboratory.

Of the 68 samples examined 44 were of ice-cream manufactured outside the Rural District and 24 were from ice-cream manufactured within the district. The following is a table shewing the respective grading :—

	<i>Made out of</i>			<i>Made within</i>	
	<i>district</i>			<i>district</i>	
Grade 1	17	...	13
2	7	...	7
3	8	...	1
4	12	...	3
			—		—
			44		24
			—		—

The following is a table showing the samples of individual vendors of ice-cream in the district. Each vendor is indicated by an individual letter or letters of the alphabet.

<i>Vendor</i>	<i>Grades</i>	<i>Vendor</i>	<i>Grades</i>
A.	1, 1.	Q.	1.
B.	1.	R.	3, 1.
C.	4, 3, 2, 2, 1.	S.	—
D.	4, 4, 3, 3, 2, 2, 1.	T.	4, 4. (not registered).
E.	1, 1.	U.	2.
F.	1, 2.	V.	4, 4. (not registered).
G.	1.	W.	4, 2, 2.
H.	1, 1.	X.	4, 2, 1.
I.	3, 1.	Y.	1.
J.	3, 3.	Z.	1, 4.
K.	3, 1.	AA.	2, 1.
L.	1.	BB.	1, 1.
M.	4, 4, 2, 2, 2, 2.	CC.	4, 4, 1, 1.
N.	1.	DD.	2, 3, 1.
O.	1.	EE.	1.
P.	4, 1.		

Several manufacturers in the district have improved their premises and equipment.

In connection with samples of milk and ice-cream and other bacteriological and biological examinations of specimens, mention should be made and thanks given to the Public Health Laboratory Service and particularly to the Laboratories at Blackpool Victoria Hospital and Preston Royal Infirmary for their ready co-operation.

SCHOOLS.

There are in the Rural District 23 schools accommodating approximately 1,300 children of both sexes. With the exception of the old Garstang Grammar School all are primary schools. Last year a survey of these schools was made when it was found that, in general, the external fabric of the buildings is good, only in a few cases are external repairs necessary.

The lighting and ventilation, except for a few isolated classrooms, are generally good.

In most schools some form of central heating is provided, sometimes augmented by open fires and slow combustion stoves. Some of the latter need repair or replacement by some modern form of heating. Five schools have no central heating.

Nineteen schools are provided with water from the Fylde Water Board and four from private supplies.

In most cases the yard surfaces are rough, uneven and defective on which rain lodges in wet weather and the surfaces are muddy, whilst in dry weather clouds of dust are raised by the feet of the children during recreation.

The sanitary accommodation at the schools consists of :

Fresh-water closets	...	...	14
Trough closets	...	...	1
Pail closets	...	...	6
Privy closets	...	...	2

HOUSING.

Number of dwelling houses erected during the year :

(a) Total, including numbers given separately under (b)	72
(i) By Local Authority	62
(ii) By other Local Authorities	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	10
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(i) By Local Authority	62
(ii) By other bodies or persons	Nil

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year—*

(1) (a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	561
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...	592
(2) (a) Number of houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	520
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...	540
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	10
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	82

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	29
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3 *Action under Statutory Powers during the year.*

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1

C.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in which Closing Orders were made ...	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

D.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

E.—Sufficiency of supply of houses :

At the close of the year there were approximately 425 outstanding applications on the Housing Register from persons requiring houses.

FACTORIES.

1.—Inspection of Factories.

Premises.	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories ...	102	58	5	Nil

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES.

Particulars	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Prosecutions
Want of cleanliness ...	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :				
(a) insufficient ...	4	4	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences ...	—	—	—	—

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council engage a whole time Rodent operative to carry out the functions of the Rats and Mice Destruction Act. A free service is maintained in respect of dwelling houses and business premises are charged with the cost of the operator's time and the materials used.

In connection with this service only those poisons officially recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are used.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to all members of the staff, and particularly to Mr. J. B. Cook, Assistant Sanitary Inspector, for the valuable assistance and co-operation afforded to me during the year.

I am, Yours faithfully,

JAS. PARKINSON,
Sanitary Inspector.

